## FFA 'launches' drive

On November 12, 1980, the Future Homemakers of America Senior Chapter at Appomattox County High School in joint session with the Junior Chapter FHA at the Appomattox Middle School held a balloon lift-off.

Students at ACHS were dismissed from class and transported to the Middle School.

There, some 200 members were each given a balloon. It was explained that this activity was to encourage the recipient of the balloon to join his/her local FHA chapter; this also the town of Appomattox a taste of how active the Future Homemakers of America really are!

After a countdown, all balloons were released in hopes of accomplishment.

## Music programs are expanded in county

With the addition of a part-time music specialist at Appomattox Elementary School all third and fifth graders are receiving music instruction. Students are learning basic music concepts and skills as they participate in the music class.

A music program of this type reinforces many other areas of teaching as well as give opportunities for creativity.

Fifth and sixth graders are currently preparing a Christmas musical entitled "Silent Night." Through drama and song the children tell how the popular Christmas carol "Silent Night" originated. The musical will be presented at the next PTA meeting, December 9, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. in the AES auditorium.

Third graders will prepare a program for the spring.

HELEN B. GUNTER, president of the Young Hearts Club in Appomattox, presented James Ford, representing the Appomattox County Volunteer Rescue Squad, with a check for the squad's annual dinner last week. The club, which was organized in June of 1973, makes donations to volunteer and charitable organizations in Appomattox County. Mrs. Gunter has been president of the club since it was founded.

## ---A Question of Law---

**Editor's Note: Following is one in a series of columns regarding the law which the Times-Virginian will provide as a public service to its readers each month. The monthly question-and-answer column is written by Albert Telch, Jr., professor of business law at Old Dominion University.**

**Question:** A short while ago I had some done on my house. The contractor agreed to do the work for approximately $3500. When the work was completed, the contractor sent me a bill for $4000. When questioned, he said that he had to do a few extra items, and that their cost was $500. I sent him a check for $3500 and wrote on the front "Account Paid in Full." The contractor kept the check, crossed out "Account Paid in Full," and cashed the check. He is now trying to collect the $500. Do I have to pay him?

**Answer:** In the majority of the states in the United States, you would not have to pay the $500. When there is a valid dispute over the amount due, and the debter sends a check -- as you did -- and marked -- as you marked yours -- and the creditor cashes the check, that constitutes a full settlement of the debt. However, in Virginia, and in a minority of other states, if the creditor receives and cashes the check without intending to accept it in full payment, then the debt is not paid in full, and the creditor can still sue for the balance he claims is due.

**Question:** My husband of over 50 years died recently, and all of his property passed to me. My problem is that my son and his wife have my only key to my house in the country, and they will not return it to me. I have told my daughter-in-law that, since she and my son have my only key, they are responsible for the contents of the house. What can I do? -- signed Grieved Mother.

**Answer:** There are several things that you can do. First you could call a locksmith and have new locks placed on the house. Second, you could change your will and state that you are omitting your son because of his treatment of you. Third, if your son and daughter-in-law are occupying your house, you could seek legal aid and sue to evict them and to enjoin them from ever going on the property again.

### In Appomattox

## Litter Council lauded

The Appomattox Litter Control Council was one of 81 litter control agencies in the state honored this week by Virginia's Division of Litter Control, according to a release from the VDLC.

Robert W. Slocum, commissioner of the VDLC, praised the Appomattox Litter Control Council for "front-line involvement."

## A look at energy-measuring methods

We run across terms that measure energy every day. Air conditioners are rated by the "Btu's" they put out; hair dryers advertise the "watts" they deliver; our electric bill is based on the "kilowatt-hours" we use.

We also hear and read about barrels of oil, barrels of oil equivalent, cubic feet of gas, tons of coal and cords of wood -- usually in terms of millions, billions or trillions of them.

All these numbers and terms can make the typical political speech or newspaper editorial or oil company advertisement about energy a maze the average person doesn't want to, or can't weave his or her way through.

If your eyes become glassy when you read about millions of barrels of oil per day or quads per year, what follows here is a simple, basic guide to the energy measurements you frequently run across.

A Btu (British thermal unit) is the amount of heat energy needed to raise the temperature of one pound of water one degree Fahrenheit. This is about the amount of energy contained in a wooden match.

ENERGY EQUIVALENTS

1 quad Btu=approximately
500,000 barrels petroleum per day for a year
182,500,000 barrels petroleum per year
40 million tons of bituminous coal
1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas
38,000 cords of hardwood
(partially from Department of Interior)

(approximately)
1 barrel crude oil=6 million Btu
1 cubic foot gas=1,000 Btu
1 ton coal=24 million Btu
1 cord hardwood=26 million Btu
1 gallon of oil=140,000 Btu

It takes approximately 30 to 60 million Btu's per year to heat the average home in Virginia. In 1978, the U.S. consumed over 78,000,000,000 Btu's of energy, or 78 quadrillion Btu's. (also referred to as 78 Q Btu's, or 78 "quads.")

A metric measure of heat energy frequently used is the Calorie (kilocalorie, or 1000 calories). A Calorie is the amount of heat energy needed to raise the temperature of one kilogram of water one degree centigrade.

We're familiar with Calories mainly with regard to our waistlines. Adults may consume 2,000 - 3,000 Calories a day, providing them with energy to be burned up doing work or stored as fat.

One Btu=.252 Calories, or one Calorie =3.968 Btu's. You can remember that in round numbers as one Calorie = four Btu's. By converting Btu's to Calories, you can see that in 1978, aside from our food-energy intake, U.S. energy consumption was over 19 Q Calories (78 Q Btu's divided by four).

Watts (and kilowatts) are a measure of power, or of the rate at which energy is used. When you replace a 100-watt lightbulb with a 60-watt bulb, you're reducing the rate at which you use energy in an attempt to conserve it (and lower your electric bill).

A kilowatt is 1,000 watts. The electric company bills you on the basis of kilowatt-hours, at the rate of about 4c-6c per kilowatt-hour (kWh). A kilowatt-hour equals the amount of energy that ten 100-watt lightbulbs use in an hour. A kilowatt-hour is equivalent to about 835 Calories, or 3385 Btu's.

Most of our non-food energy comes from oil, natural gas and coal. Each of these energy sources can provide us with a certain amount of energy. On a pound per pound basis, natural gas has the highest energy content (that is, it can provide the most Btu's or Calories or kilowatt-hours), followed by oil, gasoline, hard coal (anthracite), soft coal (bituminous) and wood.

We generally speak of barrels of oil, cubic feet of gas, tons of coal and cords of wood, because that is the way those energy sources are sold.

A barrel of oil contains 42 gallons. A cubic foot of gas is the amount of gas that could fit in a square box measuring one foot long on each side. A cord of wood is a stack that measures four feet by four feet by eight feet.

In discussions of energy, you will often see all energy sources discussed in terms of "barrels of oil equivalent."

This is an attempt to come up with a common measuring stick, since our energy plans center around replacing oil, especially imported oil, with other energy sources as much as possible.

One barrel of oil equivalent for natural gas is about 6,000 cubic feet. That means the energy in 6,000 cubic feet of gas is about the same amount as the energy in one barrel of oil.

Examining the tables shown here, you can see that in 1978, those 78 quads or total energy consumption in the U.S. included 38 quads of oil, or 6.9 billion barrels.

Attempts to alleviate our energy problems generally center around reducing our total energy consumption and replacing some of those barrels of oil with an equivalent amount of energy from other sources.

This article is part of a course on energy offered by the Virginia Tech Mechanical Engineering Department and the Cooperative Extension Service. For more information, call Lonette Chilton at the local extension office.

US 1978 ENERGY DEMAND
(quads of Btus)

| | |
|---|---|
| oil | 38 |
| gas | 20 |
| coal | 14 |
| hydro and geo | 3 |
| nuclear | 3 |
| total | 78 |

(computed from National Energy Plan figures)


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BABY OF THE WEEK

ROBERT ADAM BRYANT AND WILLIAM ALLEN BRYANT, 7 months old, twin sons of Pamela Bryant Boggs, of Blacksburg, and the late Robert A. (Butch) Bryant. Grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryant and Mr. and Mrs. William Chernault.
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| Small Ring (12G) | 93.60 | 63.00 |
| Thin Ring (3G) | 31.20 | 21.00 |

| | 18K | 14K |
|---|---|---|
| Giant Size (15G) | 155.70 | 117.00 |
| Extra Large (12G) | 124.56 | 93.60 |
| Large Ring (8G) | 83.04 | 62.40 |
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BILLY ALVIS, DALE GLOVER, AND GLEN MCCLENNY were honored by Dennis Torrence, manager of the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District, at the district's awards banquet recently. Alvis, from Campbell County, and Glover and McClenny, from Appomattox, were cited for their soil judging prowess. Glover and McClenny were on the top Senior 4-H soil judging team in the state this year, and Alvis was on the top team last year. In addition, McClenny was named the top-scoring judge of soils in the state (Photo by Bill Sherrod).

JUNIOR AND SENIOR 4-H Soils Teams were honored with ribbons from the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District at its annual awards banquet recently. Shown here from the senior team are (back row, from left) Billy Alvis, Dale Glover, and Glen McClenny. From the Junior Team are (front row, from left) Kenneth McClenny, Bob Poole, and Howard Anderson.

## AES students set label-collection drive

Students at Appomattox Elementary School are currently conducting a label collection drive that promises to bring in valuable educational equipment for the school.

As part of a program called Labels For Education, Campbell Soup Company is offering various items of equipment to elementary school in exchange for labels from the company's products.

According to Mr. Robert Carter, schools may redeem the labels for audio/visual equipment, athletic equipment, reference books and teaching aids. "We hope to collect 24,000 labels before the drive ends on February 20, 1981," said Carter. "That's how many we'll need for some new equipment."

Labels from Campbell's Soups, Beans, Tomato Juice, V-8®, Swanson Canned Foods and Franco-American products are all redeemable. "We know we have many friends in the community who will want to help," said Mr. Robert Carter. "They can do so by saving the Campbell's labels and giving them to our students. Or, simply drop them off at the school."

## Elementary Menu

**Wed., Dec. 3** - Spaghetti w/meat sauce, tomato & lettuce salad, crushed pineapple, milk, hot rolls.

**Thurs., Dec. 4** - Pork barbecue on bun, french fries, buttered broccoli, sliced pears, milk.

**Fri., Dec. 5** - Fish fillet, hot rolls, creamy buttered corn, lima beans, fruit cup, milk.

**Mon., Dec. 8** - Hot dogs on bun, pinto beans, cole slaw, sliced pineapple, milk.

**Tues., Dec. 9** - Oven fried chicken, green beans, creamed potatoes, applesauce, milk.

**Wed., Dec. 10** - Beef-sausage cheese pizza, tomato and lettuce salad, buttered carrots, fruit cup, milk.

**Thurs., Dec. 11** - Meat Loaf, mixed greens, whipped potatoes, sliced peaches, hot rolls, milk.

**Fri., Dec. 12** - Sloppy joe on bun, french fries, green peas, applecobbler, milk.

**Mon., Dec. 15** - Hamburger on bun, french fries, green peas, sliced peaches, milk.

**Tues., Dec. 16** - Hot dog on bun, coleslaw, great northern beans, applesauce, milk.

**Wed., Dec. 17** - Sliced turkey w/gravy, hot rolls, green beans, creamy potatoes, purple plums, milk.

**Thurs., Dec. 18** - Chuck wagon sandwich, buttered broccoli, macaroni and cheese, mixed fruit, milk.

**Fri., Dec. 19** - Vegetable soup, luncheon meat and cheese sandwich, sliced pears, milk.

**Have a Merry Christmas!**

CECIL JACOBS (center), representing the Appomattox Middle School FFA Chapter Outstanding Youth Group, was congratulated by Barry Sauls (left), Vo-Ag instructor at AMS, and Frank Sweet, VPI 4-H extension agent, at the Robert E. Lee Soil and Water Conservation District awards banquet recently.

# Local men are honored

Dennis W. Drinkard of Appomattox, elected delegate represented local Southern States Cooperative's members at the association's 57th Annual Stockholders' meeting held in Richmond, Va., November 19 and 20.

Also attending the session was Dan G. Coleman manager of Coleman & Sons, Inc.

They heard Executive Vice President and General Manager, Gene A. James report that Southern States had reached $625.9 million during the fiscal year which ended last June 30. This was an increase of 23% over the previous year.

James also told the business session at the Mosque Auditorium "that savings from operations, after income tax and equity earnings, came to $24.2 million, almost double that of a year ago."

James shared the reporting at the session with Jack A. McHugh, group vice president, wholesale services; Harris K. Swann, vice president, retail services; Paul E. Mullinix, group vice president, operations services; and Beverley W. Armstrong, vice president, finance.

James told the delegates that "after allowance for reserves, the Board of Directors had authorized the payment of a patronage refund of 1.5% on purchases and 3 cents per bushel on grain marketed. Those refunds are paid 40% in cash and 60% in patronage refund allocations which will be redeemed at a future date."

In his report, McHugh stated that "feed tonnage was down slightly from 543,000 tons the prior year to 540,000 tons. But because of inflationary pressures dollar volume was up from $88.9 million to $93.2 million."

Fertilizer volume was up $89.3 million compared to $71.1 the year before. Inflationary pressure and not tonnage was responsible for, most of the increase.

Petroleum volume reached $192.1 million, a record figure, while gallonage decreased about 8.2%.

Farm supply volume was slightly over $94 million, up from $84.7 million the year before.

Seed volume increased slightly from $19.5 million last year to $19.6 million.

Swann told the session that "volume through the co-op's 87 owned branches totaled $171.6 million, an increase of 29%. Net savings after taxes came to $4.4 million, a 51% increase over the previous year.

"Managed local farm supply and petroleum co-ops ended their fiscal year on December 31, 1979. They had combined volume of $223.7 million after taxes compared with $194.1 million last year. Net savings were $6.1 million after taxes as compared to $3.5 million last year."

Private agencies and independent local farm supply cooperatives had wholesale purchases of $158.8 million, up from $125.5 million last year.

In reporting on the co-op's grain marketing operation, Mullinix said that "despite some adverse marketing factors, including depressed prices and the Russian grain embargo, two records were set in this division. Volume reached a new high at $93.9 million, and net savings also exceeded previous records at $1.4 million before taxes. The year was the third highest in grain volume with a total of 24,267,000 bushels marketed."

Armstrong, told the session that "although farm commodity groups contributed to the year's dollar volume increase, more than half - $68.1 million out of the $117.4 million gain - resulted from petroleum price increase at wholesale. The balance was reasonably well distributed among feed, fertilizer, seed, farm supplies, grain marketing, and retail branch operations."

After taxes, and before equity additions, net savings from operations amounted to $17.3 million, up from $8.2 million in fiscal 1979. This increase resulted in total patronage refunds being paid of about $9.4 million. In addition, $1.2 million was paid in dividends on common and preferred stock and $6 million was added to operating capital reserves.


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